Numb. 9.

THE TATLER Revived.

By ISAAC BICKERSTAFF Esq;

——*Id Populus curat scilicet.*

To be Continued on MONDAYS *and* FRIDAYS.

MONDAY, *November* 13. 1727.

IT is very natural to most Men, and especially to us Authors, who cannot but think ourselves considerable, because we have appear'd in Print, to love to be talking of themselves, and entertain the World with the several Accidents that have happened to them. This prevalent Inclination generally gathers strength as we advance in Years: for then the Faculty of Story-telling, not only becomes almost universal, but when we consider the Wisdom and Experience, which we have acquired, by the various Scenes of Life in which we have been engaged; what can we think so fit to entertain the World with, as our own Transactions?

TO my shame be it spoken, I must confess for one, that I find myself very much possessed with the Spirit both of an Old Man and an Author. It is my custom to be a constant Reader of my own Lucubrations, as soon as ever the Printer brings my Paper to me; not only to see if no Mistakes or Blunders have slipp'd into it, but also to observe how it relishes at second hand. I this Morning resolved to amuse myself with reading them all over together, but was not a little confounded to find how great a Place I myself had taken up in 'em; and therefore think myself obliged to make my Readers this publick Acknowledgement of the Offence, and beg their Pardon for having made myself so much the Hero of my own Works.

AFTER having just confessed a Fault, it may not look altogether so well, to run immediately into the Repetition of it; but as I broke off in a former Paper in the middle of a Story, I must beg leave to finish it: especially as it is not so much for my own Reputation, as to do justice to the uncommon Generosity and Publick-spiritedness of the Gentlemen concerned in it.

I left myself there under no little surprize at my finding every thing in my Apartment so exactly in the very same order, as it used to be whilst I formerly resided in it; which was soon removed by the following Narration.

Mr. BICKERSTAFF, says the Gentleman whom I before celebrated for his Faculty of Speaking, you will not wonder at the finding your Family and your Lodgings so well prepared for your Reception; when I inform you, that tho' it is our Custom to concern ourselves with nothing but the deceased Persons themselves, yet in your Case we unanimously resolved to extend our Care to

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to every thing which you left behind you. I have not forgot the Hint you lately gave me, and therefore ſhall not enter into any thing that relates to your own Deceaſe. The Ceremony was no ſooner over, but I deſired our Maſter here to ſummon a general Meeting of our whole Fraternity. This was no ſooner done, but I opened to them the occaſion of the Meeting; and after having done juſtice to your Honour's Merit in the beſt manner I was able, and given them ſeveral very convincing Reaſons, why it was very improbable that you would remain long in the State of Nonexiſtence; I propoſed to them, that, in conſideration of your many eminent Services to the Publick, and of the certain and ſpeedy Proſpect we had of your Reſuſcitation, I thought that it would be an Action not at all improper, and which would very much redound to the Honour of the Company, if they would take your Houſe and Family into their Care and Protection, that you might find your Books, your Servants, and every thing elſe which belonged to you, ready for your immediate Uſe at your Return.

THIS Propoſal was no ſooner made, than unanimouſly agreed to; and we diſpatched an Agent to your Landlord directly, to let him know that our Company would be his Paymaſters for the Rent of your Apartment. I myſelf at the ſame time went to your Man and Maid, and agreed with them for Board-Wages for themſelves, and your Cat; with ſtrict Orders to take care of all your Rooms, and particularly your Study, and not to ſuffer the minuteſt thing to be removed out of its place, till your Return; which I hope they have taken care punctually to perform. I muſt confeſs, *adds he*, that we have been ſomething uneaſy at the Length of your Worſhip's Nap, which I am ſorry I can't help taking notice of: But however, *ſays he*, we have ſteadily and pertinaciouſly perſiſted in our Deſign, without having required any thing further of your Servants, than the Care of your Houſe; except that now and then, when we have been in a very great hurry of Buſineſs, we may have deſired them to perform the Ceremony of Mutes, (for which they ſeem both admirably well qualified:) And we ſhould not have taken this liberty with them neither, (which we humbly hope your Honour will excuſe) had we not perceived that your Worſhip ſeemed to be in no great haſte to want them.

HE here ended; and I returned the Maſter, and himſelf, and the reſt of the Company my hearty Thanks for their very uncommon and generous Regard to me, in the handſomeſt manner I was able.

AS ſoon as I had done this, he aſſured me, with the utmoſt reſpect, that now they ſhould look upon me no more as their Patient, but ſubmit themſelves abſolutely to me, as their Governor and Director, as formerly. In purſuance whereof, he told me, that he had orders to lay before me an Account of their Tranſactions, with all the walking dead Perſons they had taken into their Cuſtody during my Abſence, whenever I would pleaſe to receive it. I thanked him for their Deſign, but told him, that, to confeſs the Truth, I had no great ſtomach to reflect upon what was paſt; but that, for the future, I would have them bring me every *Monday* Morning, a Bill of the Mortality among the Living, with an account of the ſeveral Diſtempers or Caſualties which brought the reſpective Perſons into their hands, after the nature of the Weekly-Bills, which were publiſhed by the Clerks of the ſeveral Pariſhes belonging to this Town.

THEY then took their leave of me, and aſſured me my Orders ſhould be punctually obey'd; and that, as their Province extended over the whole Kingdom, they would conſult with their Brethren how to digeſt their Journal into a proper Method for my peruſal.

I think it not improper to acquaint the World with this ſtep which I have taken, that all Perſons who are in danger of being concerned in it, may be upon their guard; and take care to rouze themſelves up, that they may not have their Names put in print, and be made publick Examples of.

BIBLIOTHECA BODLEIANA

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